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**STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

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**Testimony of
SUZANNE D. CASE
Chairperson**

**Before the House Committee on
ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**

**Tuesday, March 19, 2019
9:30 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 325**

**In consideration of
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 219/HOUSE RESOLUTION 194
URGING THE STATE AND EACH COUNTY TO ADOPT THE GLOBAL PACT FOR
THE ENVIRONMENT TO ACHIEVE THE UNITED NATIONS PARIS AGREEMENT
AND THE 2030 DEVELOPMENT AGENDA, AND TO SPECIFICALLY ADOPT THE
UNITED NATIONS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS, NUMBERS 13
THROUGH 17**

House Concurrent Resolution 219/House Resolution 194 urges the State and each County to adopt the United Nations Paris Agreement and Sustainable Development Goals. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) supports these measures.**

The State has followed the lead of the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation and created the Hawaii Strategy for Plant Conservation (<http://laukahi.org/hawaii-strategy-for-plant-conservation/>) to commit to secure seed collections from 75% of Hawaii's most important plant species by 2020. Further, the Department continues to support the diversification of agricultural systems by providing technical and financial assistance through the Forest Stewardship Program to landowners interested in developing agroforestry systems.

The Department notes that urban forest areas and tree-lined streets have been shown to lead to reduced crime and reduces vehicle speeds which increases safety for pedestrians and cyclists. Further, placing trees next to freeways and roads, and having roads pass through and by green areas, reduces driver stress, as measured by blood pressure, heart rate, and sympathetic nervous system changes. Green infrastructure associated with roads and drainageways also reduces storm-water runoff and improves water quality, which has major advantages as the waters enter our near-shore waters.

SUZANNE D. CASE
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

ROBERT K. MASUDA
FIRST DEPUTY

M. KALEO MANUEL
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

AQUATIC RESOURCES
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION
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CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS
CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES ENFORCEMENT
ENGINEERING
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS

The Department recognizes the importance of providing on-the-job training for youth and has partnered with organizations such as Kupu, who uses state funding to leverage AmeriCorps grant funds to provide service-learning programs in conservation, renewable energy, agriculture, and sustainability as a catalyst to restore communities and build a more sustainable future for Hawaii. Many Kupu interns have gone on to lead successful careers in conservation in Hawaii. The Department also supports training for educators through Project Learning Tree that connects place-based environmental issues with national teaching standards for students.

The Department recognizes that watershed protection is a corner-piece to meeting a multitude of the Sustainable Development Goals. The Department's Division of Forestry and Wildlife is actively carrying out management actions to work toward this goal to protect 30% (253,000 acres) of priority watersheds by 2030, as are 10 Watershed Partnerships representing a multitude of public and private landowners across five islands.

Natural resource related employment already accounts for a significant proportion of the State's green economy. Green jobs will continue to be an important part of a growing sustainable economy. The most recent statistical analysis of the green-job market by the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations estimates that there are over 11,000 green jobs making up 2.4 percent of Hawaii's private sector alone.

The Department notes that part of building resilient infrastructure that promotes inclusive and sustainable industrialization, fosters innovation, and makes cities and communities inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable, includes the preservation, maintenance, and expansion of green infrastructure, including our urban forests. Urban forests can play a significant role in building healthier communities and people, cooling heat islands in cities, improving sales in business districts, and protecting communities from the impacts from storm events and natural disasters through storm-water mitigation and absorption.

Protecting and increasing the footprint of our native forests will have as much of an impact on mitigating the effects of climate change as reducing our carbon emissions. Protecting and managing our coral reefs for resiliency of climate-related stressors, will help sustain Hawaii's marine ecosystems into the future. By reforesting grasslands under the jurisdiction of the Division of Forestry and Wildlife alone, the State could sequester five billion tons of carbon from the atmosphere. Native forests also mitigate climate change by keeping the islands cooler, protecting our reefs from being damaged by runoff, protecting communities from the impacts from storm events and natural disasters through storm-water mitigation and absorption, and efficiently collecting rainwater for our aquifers. Increased capacity of marine management will also help mitigate climate change through invasive species control and reef restoration projects.

By continuing to work with the State Office of Planning's Sustainability Coordinator, the City and County of Honolulu's Climate Change, Sustainability and Resiliency office, and the other County Sustainability officers, as well as on a national level with the 18-Governor U.S. Climate Alliance, the Hawaii Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission's focus is on resilience and clean energy. It recognizes the urgency of climate threats and promotes ambitious strategies for climate change mitigation. In the near future, it proposes to develop a technical assistance program for state and county agencies dealing with vulnerability to climate impacts (especially sea level rise), to be conducted by experts; and provide coordination and support for a

number of clean (and sustainable) transportation actions. These strategies resonate with the proposed measure's intent to help Hawaii achieve its energy, climate change and sustainability goals.

The Department recognizes that a comprehensive marine plan is needed to conserve and sustain Hawaii's ocean and marine resources by implementation of statewide management actions, including fisheries rules, to improve nearshore ecosystems, ensure responsible use, and sustainably manage key food fish species; the identification of a statewide network of priority areas for effective management of at least 30% of Hawai'i's nearshore waters, and work collaboratively with local stakeholders to identify management options appropriate for each place; the encouragement of responsible behavior through compliance and enforcement of rules related to nearshore fisheries and ecosystems; the prevention of marine pollution; and the prioritization of monitoring and data analysis to inform adaptive management.

Core to the mission of the Department is to ensure the conservation, restoration, and sustainable use of terrestrial and inland freshwater ecosystems and their uses for their intrinsic and ecosystem services values. The Department recognizes the importance of strengthening the means of implementation and management of our natural and cultural resources. The Department currently receives less than one percent of the state budget to manage state lands mauka to makai. The Department has been working to identify alternative means of funding for conservation actions, including building public-private partnerships to help manage and steward Hawaii's natural resources.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on these measures.



To: The House Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection
From: Brodie Lockard, Hawaii State Climate Lead, Organizing for Action
Date: Tuesday, March 19, 2019, 9:30 am

LATE

In support of HCR219 / HR194

Dear EEP Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Wildberger, and Committee Members—

Organizing for Action supports HCR219 / HR194.

In the face of federal attacks on the environment in general, and sustainability in particular, the State and all four counties should do all they can to uphold the Paris Agreement through local action. They should especially adopt the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, numbers 13 through 17.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Brodie Lockard
Hawaii State Climate Lead, Organizing for Action